UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.121/39/Rev.1/Add.1
20 April 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[1 April 1992]

With regard to the concern and recognition expressed in General Assembly resolution 46/48 as to the need to draw up guidelines for the training of those taking part in peace-keeping forces, the United Nations, through its competent body, should forward to participating countries the permanent rules governing such activities at the international level, so that better training can be provided for the troops involved.

With regard to part IV of the resolution, Colombia considers that there should be increased participation by the armed forces of the other countries of the continent. It would also be valuable to seek an exchange of experience with friendly countries which have participated or are participating in United Nations peace-keeping forces. It would be appreciated if the Organization would encourage such an exchange.

Colombia supports the invitation to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 25 of resolution 46/48 concerning the need to create a focal point for contacts, since this would facilitate operational and administrative matters both for participating Governments and for the organization set up for the peace-keeping operation.

With regard to part V of the resolution, in particular paragraph 32 concerning the participation of United Nations personnel in electoral activities when they are an integral part of peace-keeping operations, Colombia considers that military personnel should not be involved in such activities and that their duties should be confined to matters relating to security. Colombia has always viewed United Nations intervention in a country's electoral activities with great concern, since it considers that such questions are closely related to the internal sovereignty of States.

JAPAN

[Original: English]

[2 April 1992]

The Government of Japan wishes to express its satisfaction at the growing interest throughout the international community in United Nations peace-keeping operations and reiterates its support for them. This heightened interest is in part a result of the effective role which the United Nations played in leading the international response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. And now the United Nations has launched operations in Cambodia and Yugoslavia which are unprecedented, in terms of size and resources required, in the long history of its peace-keeping efforts.

The peace-keeping function of the United Nations is thus at a critical juncture. In view of the limited resources available, how can the Organization meet the demands that will be placed on it?

In the light of the very useful discussions conducted during the last three meetings of this Special Committee, Japan would like to propose the following three issues for inclusion in this year's agenda:

- Resources;

- Conflict prevention and peacemaking operations;

- Exchange of information - through a consultation mechanism - among the Security Council, the Secretariat and Member States.

Japan recalls that all the views expressed in its notes verbales on peace-keeping operations in 1989, 1990 and 1991 remain valid.

1. Resources

While the peace-keeping operations have recently been increasing both in number and in the scope of activities, their financial difficulties are becoming serious. All Member States have the duty to bear their assessed contributions; many of them, however, have difficulties in fulfilling their responsibilities. This is the main cause for the United Nations financial crisis concerning peace-keeping operations, particularly at their initial stage.

From this viewpoint, Prime Minister Miyazawa invited, in his speech at the Summit Meeting of the Security Council, Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in support of United Nations peace-keeping and peacemaking activities. The Government of Japan would like to reiterate this invitation to the Member States on this occasion, and recall that this Fund is also applicable to the Secretary-General's peacemaking efforts.

In order to facilitate the smooth implementation of peace-keeping operations, it is essential that the host countries, which benefit directly from the operations, extend maximum support according to their capabilities.

In view of the increased financial requirements for peace-keeping operations, the Security Council should give serious consideration so that the operations are implemented in a cost-effective manner. It should further be recalled that none of the previous peace-keeping operations has been originally considered a permanent activity.

2. Conflict prevention and peacemaking operations

The United Nations is increasingly expected to take prompt action to prevent the deterioration of potentially explosive situations. The Secretary-General is in an appropriate position to take actions of this nature and he should be encouraged to do so. In particular, he should be provided with full and up-to-date information concerning tensions that could escalate into an international conflict, and be given the means to dispatch his own mission to monitor the situation.

The important role of the Security Council in rallying behind the Secretary-General should also be stressed. In order to enhance his diplomatic power, the Security Council might express its support for his efforts by indicating the measures it might take within its mandate should those efforts fail.

3. Exchange of information - through a consultation mechanism - among the Security Council, Secretariat and Member States

In order to secure the smooth functioning of peace-keeping operations, particularly large-scale ones, a consultative mechanism among the Security Council, the Secretariat and Member States on their establishment will be useful. This mechanism would be in the form of a consultative group of an appropriate size.